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(Original Signature of Member)

115TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

**H. R.** \_\_\_\_\_

To authorize the Office on Violence Against Women to improve the handling of crimes of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking by incorporating a trauma-informed approach into the initial response to and investigation of such crimes.

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IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. EMMER introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee  
on \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**A BILL**

To authorize the Office on Violence Against Women to improve the handling of crimes of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking by incorporating a trauma-informed approach into the initial response to and investigation of such crimes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Abby Honold Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. DEMONSTRATION PROGRAM ON TRAUMA-IN-**  
2 **FORMED TRAINING FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT.**

3 (a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section—

4 (1) the term “Attorney General” means the At-  
5 torney General, acting through the Director of the  
6 Office on Violence Against Women;

7 (2) the term “covered individual” means an in-  
8 dividual who interfaces with victims of domestic vio-  
9 lence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking,  
10 including—

11 (A) an individual working for or on behalf  
12 of an eligible entity;

13 (B) a school or university administrator;  
14 and

15 (C) an emergency services or medical em-  
16 ployee;

17 (3) the term “demonstration site”, with respect  
18 to an eligible entity that receives a grant under this  
19 section, means—

20 (A) if the eligible entity is a law enforce-  
21 ment agency described in paragraph (4)(A), the  
22 area over which the eligible entity has jurisdic-  
23 tion; and

24 (B) if the eligible entity is an organization  
25 or agency described in paragraph (4)(B), the  
26 area over which a law enforcement agency de-

1           scribed in paragraph (4)(A) that is working in  
2           collaboration with the eligible entity has juris-  
3           diction; and

4           (4) the term “eligible entity” means—

5                 (A) a State, local, territorial, or tribal law  
6                 enforcement agency; or

7                 (B) a national, regional, or local victim  
8                 services organization or agency working in col-  
9                 laboration with a law enforcement agency de-  
10                scribed in subparagraph (A).

11         (b) GRANTS AUTHORIZED.—

12                 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Attorney General shall  
13                 award grants on a competitive basis to eligible enti-  
14                 ties to carry out the demonstration program under  
15                 this section by implementing evidence-based or  
16                 promising policies and practices to incorporate trau-  
17                 ma-informed techniques designed to—

18                 (A) prevent re-traumatization of the vic-  
19                 tim;

20                 (B) ensure that covered individuals use evi-  
21                 dence-based practices to respond to and inves-  
22                 tigate cases of domestic violence, dating vio-  
23                 lence, sexual assault, and stalking;

24                 (C) improve communication between vic-  
25                 tims and law enforcement officers in an effort

1 to increase the likelihood of the successful in-  
2 vestigation and prosecution of the alleged crime  
3 in a manner that protects the victim to the  
4 greatest extent possible;

5 (D) increase collaboration among stake-  
6 holders who are part of the coordinated commu-  
7 nity response to domestic violence, dating vio-  
8 lence, sexual assault, and stalking; and

9 (E) evaluate the effectiveness of the train-  
10 ing process and content by measuring—

11 (i) investigative and prosecutorial  
12 practices and outcomes; and

13 (ii) the well-being of victims and their  
14 satisfaction with the criminal justice pro-  
15 cess.

16 (2) TERM.—The Attorney General shall make  
17 grants under this section for each of the first 2 fis-  
18 cal years beginning after the date of enactment of  
19 this Act.

20 (3) AWARD BASIS.—The Attorney General shall  
21 award grants under this section to multiple eligible  
22 entities for use in a variety of settings and commu-  
23 nities, including—

24 (A) urban, suburban, tribal, remote, and  
25 rural areas;

1 (B) college campuses; or

2 (C) traditionally underserved communities.

3 (c) USE OF FUNDS.—An eligible entity that receives  
4 a grant under this section shall use the grant to—

5 (1) train covered individuals within the dem-  
6 onstration site of the eligible entity to use evidence-  
7 based, trauma-informed techniques throughout an  
8 investigation into domestic violence, dating violence,  
9 sexual assault, or stalking, including by—

10 (A) conducting victim interviews in a man-  
11 ner that—

12 (i) elicits valuable information about  
13 the domestic violence, dating violence, sex-  
14 ual assault, or stalking; and

15 (ii) avoids re-traumatization of the  
16 victim;

17 (B) conducting field investigations that  
18 mirror best and promising practices available at  
19 the time of the investigation;

20 (C) customizing investigative approaches to  
21 ensure a culturally and linguistically appro-  
22 priate approach to the community being served;

23 (D) becoming proficient in understanding  
24 and responding to complex cases, including

1 cases of domestic violence, dating violence, sex-  
2 ual assault, or stalking—

3 (i) facilitated by alcohol or drugs;

4 (ii) involving strangulation;

5 (iii) committed by a non-stranger;

6 (iv) committed by an individual of the  
7 same sex as the victim;

8 (v) involving a victim with a disability;

9 (vi) involving a male victim; or

10 (vii) involving a lesbian, gay, bisexual,  
11 or transgender (commonly referred to as  
12 “LGBT”) victim;

13 (E) developing collaborative relationships  
14 between—

15 (i) law enforcement officers and other  
16 members of the response team; and

17 (ii) the community being served; and

18 (F) developing an understanding of how to  
19 define, identify, and correctly classify a report  
20 of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual as-  
21 sault, or stalking; and

22 (2) promote the efforts of the eligible entity to  
23 improve the response of covered individuals to do-  
24 mestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and  
25 stalking through various communication channels,

1 such as the website of the eligible entity, social  
2 media, print materials, and community meetings, in  
3 order to ensure that all covered individuals within  
4 the demonstration site of the eligible entity are  
5 aware of those efforts and included in trainings, to  
6 the extent practicable.

7 (d) DEMONSTRATION PROGRAM TRAININGS ON  
8 TRAUMA-INFORMED APPROACHES.—

9 (1) IDENTIFICATION OF EXISTING  
10 TRAININGS.—

11 (A) IN GENERAL.—The Attorney General  
12 shall identify trainings for law enforcement offi-  
13 cers, in existence as of the date on which the  
14 Attorney General begins to solicit applications  
15 for grants under this section, that—

16 (i) employ a trauma-informed ap-  
17 proach to domestic violence, dating vio-  
18 lence, sexual assault, and stalking; and

19 (ii) focus on the fundamentals of  
20 the—

21 (I) neurobiology of trauma; and

22 (II) impact of trauma on victims  
23 of domestic violence, dating violence,  
24 sexual assault, and stalking.

1           (B) SELECTION.—An eligible entity that  
2           receives a grant under this section shall select  
3           1 or more of the approaches employed by a  
4           training identified under subparagraph (A) to  
5           test within the demonstration site of the eligible  
6           entity.

7           (2) CONSULTATION.—In carrying out para-  
8           graph (1), the Attorney General shall consult with  
9           the Director of the Office for Victims of Crime in  
10          order to seek input from and cultivate consensus  
11          among outside practitioners and other stakeholders  
12          through facilitated discussions and focus groups on  
13          best practices in the field of trauma-informed care  
14          for victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sex-  
15          ual assault, and stalking.

16          (e) EVALUATION.—The Attorney General, in con-  
17          sultation with the Director of the National Institute of  
18          Justice, shall require each eligible entity that receives a  
19          grant under this section to identify a research partner,  
20          preferably a local research partner to—

21               (1) design a system for generating and col-  
22               lecting the appropriate data to facilitate an inde-  
23               pendent process or impact evaluation of the use of  
24               the grant funds;

1           (2) periodically conduct an evaluation described  
2           in paragraph (1); and

3           (3) periodically make publicly available, during  
4           the grant period—

5                 (A) preliminary results of the evaluations  
6                 conducted under paragraph (2); and

7                 (B) recommendations for improving the  
8                 use of the grant funds.

9           (f) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—The At-  
10          torney General shall carry out this section using amounts  
11          otherwise available to the Attorney General.